

Claims

1. A method for accessing a network in a telecommunication system comprising at least one terminal and a plurality of networks, characterized by

5 storing information sets describing settings needed to access networks and their resources,

scanning for information about the available networks by the terminal,

determining available information sets by comparing the information
10 about the available networks to said stored information sets, and

accessing at least one network based on the settings described in the available information sets.

2. A method according to claim 1, characterized by
informing a user of the terminal about the available information sets,
15 letting the user select one of the available information sets, and
accessing at least one network based on the settings described in the information set the user has accepted.

3. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that

20 said stored information sets are stored separately for each network on a smart card.

4. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized by

storing network names of the networks belonging to said stored information sets,
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performing the scanning by sending network identity requests and searching for network identity responses, and

determining the available information sets by comparing the stored network names to the scanned information identifying the network names of
30 the available networks.

5. A method according to claim 4, characterized by
storing network identifiers representing a group of network names using wildcard characters in said stored information sets, and

determining the available information sets by comparing the stored
35 network identifiers to the scanned information identifying the network names of the available networks.

6. A method according to any one of the preceding claims, characterized in that

the terminal is a mobile terminal and at least one of the networks is a wireless local area (WLAN) network.

7. A method according to claim 6, characterized in that said stored information sets comprise also channel settings defining whether the used radio channel is automatically or manually selected and/or said stored information sets comprise operation mode settings defining whether the used operation mode is an ad-hoc or an infrastructure mode.

8. A terminal comprising a transceiver (Tx/Rx) for communicating with a telecommunication network (NW1, NW2, ON), characterized in that the terminal further comprises

memory means (CPU, MEM, SCMEM) for storing information sets describing settings needed to access networks and their resources,

scanning means (CPU) for scanning for information about the available networks,

determination means (CPU) for determining available information sets by comparing the information about the available networks to said stored information sets, and

access means (CPU) for accessing at least one network based on the settings described in the available information sets.

9. A terminal according to claim 8, characterized in that

the terminal comprises user interface means (UI) for informing a user of the terminal about the available information sets and letting the user select one of the available information sets, and

the access means (CPU) are arranged to access at least one network (NW1, NW2) based on the settings described in the information set the user has accepted.

10. A terminal according to claim 8 or 9, characterized in that

said stored information sets are stored as network-specific profiles on a smart card (SC) that may be accessed by the terminal.

11. A terminal according to any one of the claims 8 - 10, characterized in that

the memory means (CPU, MEM, SCMEM) are arranged to store network names of the networks belonging to said stored information sets,

the scanning means (CPU) are arranged to perform the scanning by sending network identity requests and searching for network identity responses, and

- the determination means (CPU) are arranged to determine the
5 available information sets by comparing the stored network names to the scanned information identifying the network names of the available networks.

12. A terminal according to any one of the claims 8 - 11, characterized in that

- the terminal is a mobile terminal and comprises functionality to access wireless local area networks.
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13. A terminal according to claim 12, characterized in that
said stored information sets comprise channel settings defining whether the used radio channel is automatically or manually selected and/or
said stored information sets comprise operation mode settings defining
15 whether the used operation mode is an ad-hoc or an infrastructure mode, and

the terminal is arranged to select the used radio channel based on the channel settings of the available information sets and/or the terminal is arranged to select an ad-hoc or an infrastructure mode based on the operation mode settings of the available information sets.